

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6639

**Please reply to:**  
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26 April 2021

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the trusts guidance and protocol on monitoring patients on 35% Oxygen, and protocol regarding the NEWS Scores that are given to monitor a patient's condition, and their escalation.

*You asked:*

*I have requested the trusts guidance and protocol on monitoring patients on 35% Oxygen, and protocol regarding the NEWS Scores that are given to monitor a patient's condition, and their escalation.*

*Trust response:*

The trust escalation guidelines are based on Royal College of Physicians (2017) publication and endorsement of NEWS 2 as a EWS (Early Warning Score) for NHS on England. The parameters and responses are non-flexible to ensure uniformity of practice and so the same language is used in whole U.K. NHS.

It have to be stressed that NEWS 2 is a tool and not a substitute for clinical judgment as there will be cases where the score will not demand immediate escalation; e.g. some patients will have chronic stable pathology where sometimes they will be admitted and discharged from hospitals with NEWS 2 score of 5 as baseline. On the other side of the spectrum some patients might score low but they have high O<sub>2</sub> demand which still score only 2 and those patients might be very unwell.

The frequency of observation within the Trust's Adult Vital signs guidelines are based on NICE recommendations regarding monitoring of inpatients.

Please see attached scan of the Trust NEWS 2 observations chart and escalation pathway.

35% oxygen = NEWS 2 (if that is the only parameter triggering)

Escalation would be "Inform registered nurse to assess patient. Registered nurse decides whether to increase the frequency of observations and/or if the escalation of care is required"

Please note that we have attached the paper observation chart to the reply email.

This is a "downtime" form as within the wards patients observations are routinely recorded on Nervecentre electronic system (which would contain a record of these) however, the escalation prompts are the same.

FAMILY NAME: Given name: Preferred name: Title: _____ Gender: _____ NHS number: Hospital number: Date of birth: ____ - ____ - ____ Complete above in full or affix patient label Location:						 <p style="text-align: right;"> <b>NHS</b>          Maidstone and          Tunbridge Wells          NHS Trust       </p>		
<b>Adult Observation Chart</b> Please calculate NEWS on every set of observations								
<b>A + B</b>  Respirations Breaths per minute 15-17 12-14 9-11 ≤8	Date							
	Time							
	≥ 25						3	≥ 25
	21-24						2	21-24
	18-20							18-20
	15-17							15-17
	12-14							12-14
	9-11						1	9-11
	≤8						3	≤8
	≥ 96							≥ 96
94-95						1	94-95	
92-93						2	92-93	
≤91						3	≤91	
<b>A + B</b>  SpO <sub>2</sub> Scale 1 Oxygen Saturation (%) ≥ 97 on O <sub>2</sub> 95-96 on O <sub>2</sub> Only use Scale 2 if target range is 88-92% Only use scale 2 under the direction of a qualified clinician 93-94 on O <sub>2</sub> ≤93 on air 88-92 86-87 84-85 ≤83	SpO <sub>2</sub> Scale 2	≥ 97 on O <sub>2</sub>						
	Oxygen Saturation (%)	95-96 on O <sub>2</sub>						
	Only use Scale 2 if target range is 88-92%	93-94 on O <sub>2</sub>						
	Only use scale 2 under the direction of a qualified clinician	≤93 on air						
	93-94 on O <sub>2</sub>		1					
	≤93 on air		2					
	88-92		3					
	86-87			1				
	84-85			2				
	≤83			3				
<b>Air or Oxygen?</b>  A=Air Air or Oxygen? Device	A=Air							
	Air or Oxygen?		2					
	Device			2				
	≥220				3		≥220	
	201-219						201-219	
	181-200						181-200	
	161-180						161-180	
	141-160						141-160	
	121-140						121-140	
	111-120						111-120	
<b>C</b>  Blood Pressure mmHg 101-110 91-100 81-90 71-80 61-70 51-60 ≤50	101-110				1		101-110	
	91-100				2		91-100	
	81-90				3		81-90	
	71-80				3		71-80	
	61-70				3		61-70	
	51-60				3		51-60	
	≤50				3		≤50	
	≥131				3		≥131	
	121-130				2		121-130	
	111-120				2		111-120	
<b>C</b>  Pulse Beats/min 101-110 91-100 81-90 71-80 61-70 51-60 41-50 31-40 ≤30	101-110				1		101-110	
	91-100				1		91-100	
	81-90				1		81-90	
	71-80				1		71-80	
	61-70				1		61-70	
	51-60				1		51-60	
	41-50				1		41-50	
	31-40				3		31-40	
	≤30				3		≤30	
	<b>D</b>  Consciousness Score for NEW onset of confusion (no score for chronic) Alert Confusion V P U	Alert						
Confusion					3		Confusion	
V					3		V	
P					3		P	
U					3		U	
<b>E</b>  Temperature °C ≥39.1° 38.1-39.0° 37.1-38.0° 36.1-37.0° 35.1-36.0° ≤35.0°	≥39.1°				2		≥39.1°	
	38.1-39.0°				1		38.1-39.0°	
	37.1-38.0°						37.1-38.0°	
	36.1-37.0°						36.1-37.0°	
	35.1-36.0°				1		35.1-36.0°	
	≤35.0°				3		≤35.0°	
<b>NEWS TOTAL</b>						<b>TOTAL</b>		
Sedation Score (PCA, EPIDURAL) Awake = 0, Dozing Intermittently = 1, Mostly Sleeping = 2, Difficult to wake = 3								
Sedation Score								
Pain Score on movement (eg Coughing) No Pain = 0, Mild = 1-3, Moderate = 4-6, Severe = 7-10								
Pain Score PCA (mg)								
Epidural (mls/hr)								
Bromage Score								
Bowels opened								
Initials								